



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**SEPTEMBER 2013**



**Peter Briggs on the ascent of Monte Disgrazia. Photo Richard Hopkinson**

## **Editorial**

Summer weather at last – and how lovely it has been, sending us scurrying into the shade in search of cool rock! In Val di Mello we baked on the hot white slabs then splashed into the icy river or went high in search of fresher air. More of that in next month's issue. Now we look forward to savouring the last of the warm evenings. Black Rocks was surprisingly dry and warm, perhaps the next few Wednesdays will be as kind?

This issue contains an account of three sunny days in the wettest spot in England; klettersteigs in Austria - the first, I hope, of many accounts of people's summer hols; an insider's tip to a most unusual local cragging venue; some revealing photos plus a vintage shot and shocking information concerning the changing habits of a long- established member of this club. Read on and enjoy!

## **What's on.**

### **Wednesday Evenings**

4 September **Earl Sterndale** and after at The Quiet Woman  
10 Sept. **Local crags/Wirksworth Wall** if wet. Followed by Committee meeting at 8.30 and then get together at Red Lion, Wirksworth.  
11 Sept. **Curbar Boulders** and after at The Bridge, Calver  
17 Sept. **Cratcliffe Boulders** and after at The Miners Standard, Winster  
25 Sept. **Wildcat** and after at County and Station and Curry Meet (see below).

### **Club night: 10 September at the Red Lion, Wirksworth**

September's committee meeting will again be held in the Red Lion, Market Place, Wirksworth at 8.30pm following a session at Wirksworth Wall or local crag outdoors. The idea is that this could form the basis of a fixed monthly club meeting place where new members can come along to the climbing wall and/or the pub, and be sure of meeting people. It is hoped that existing members, particularly those local to the Wirksworth area, will come along to the Wall and/or the pub at some point on this evening.

Pete Lancaster tel 0114 2301136 or [petel1952@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petel1952@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Lundy: 14-21 September Derek Pike**

Let's hope those who are going to Lundy this year have as much fun as these dubious characters, pictured after an ascent of Albacore in 1983! Did Chris ever really have so much hair?



Chris Radcliffe, Ruth Conway and Fred Phillips having just completed Albacore (HWS) on the Old Light Cliff.

## **Matlock Bath Curry Meet – Wednesday 25 September**

It's the end of August and, as some would say, the nights are drawing in. However, before we can retire to the climbing wall for the winter, there're a few more Wednesday evenings to negotiate.

As has become traditional, to encourage people out, as the evenings get really short, I've booked a table at the Matlock Bath Balti for the last Wednesday in September. The committee will doubtless chose a crag (How about Long Tor Quarry? Quality routes, albeit needing a bit of traffic, a mountaineering approach and the nearest crag to the curry house!), but the table is booked for 20:00. If you intend coming, can you please let me know ASAP.

See you there

Simon

[Simon.pape@eon.com](mailto:Simon.pape@eon.com)

07813 616563/01629 822450

## **Coming Soon! The Annual Dinner 16 November 2013**

Keep the date clear for the social event of the year! Menu and details will follow in next month's issue.

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets. High House, Borrowdale 13-14 July: Dave Helliwell**



The weekend forecast was good so early arrival on Thursday was called for. The early birds were Pam and Nodge, with their friends Jackie and Dave, Sally and Tim C. Ruth, Bott and me.

Friday dawned bright, sunny and hot. Sally and Tim went to Sergeant's Slabs where they had a great day; Pam, Nodge and party went to Shepherds while Bott, Ruth and I slogged up to High Crag in the heat of the mid-morning sun. It was nearly too much for Teddy Two Poos, Bott's golden retriever. Once up there the effort was all worthwhile – we did Delilah, Artefact and High Crag Buttress.

Friday evening brought the arrival of most of the rest of the party, Chris and Jan, Pete and Sue, Rock, bringing Ruth's friend Austin Plant, Steve B. Derek and Joan, Simon and Tim Sellears (who had organised the all-important beer supplies). On Saturday morning the stage was set for the arrival of Mike Mowbray, Alison and family in their mobile gin palace. They elected to camp amid concerns that the palace might have problems with the humpback bridge approach – at least it has handrails now!

Saturday saw, for me, the achievement of a long-standing goal – Eagle Front – having been repulsed by bad weather on several previous attempts. I was accompanied by Simon who had it on “his list”. We then did several routes on Grey Crag. Sally and Tim went in search of the exotic – well in name anyway – but were sadly disappointed with their visit to the City of Love and Ashes on Lining Crag.

Most went to Gillercombe with ascents of Gillercombe Buttress and Grey Knotts Face plus something undergraded and scary by Mike and Pete. On the return journey, I am told, Steve was enticed by Jan and Ruth into an inviting pool to cool his feet where he slipped on a sloping slab into the river, cooling other parts as well.



Chris and Tim S. flogged up to do Engineer's Slabs and then another big flog over to do Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct – (*photo right*) which Tim rated as one of the best climbs he had ever done. I have to agree, and it is not as polished or unprotected as the guide would have you believe.

Back at the hut it was barbecue time; everyone was well fed, including the midges, and well watered with Tim's beer. (Beer sales produced a £20 profit which has been donated to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team on behalf of the Oread).

Sunday once again dawned fine and warm. Shock horror! Three sunny days in the wettest place in England! Mike and Pete set off at crack of dawn to Scawfell, Saxon being the target; only to find a queue, so they did Nazgul first. Pam, Nodge and team went up to do Corvus, others walked. Simon, Tim S. Chris, Jan, Ruth and I went to Shepherds – it was deserted!

Ascents of Adam, Eve, North Buttress, Arduus and Brown Crag Wall supplying enough excitement. By mid afternoon it was too hot so we escaped to the cafe for tea and icecreams where we were joined by Sally and Tim who had done Raindrop on Black Crag.

All in all a wonderful weekend, well attended, in a great and fabulously situated hut with excellent company.



## **Mountaineering in Elvaston Castle Park: Tim Cairns**

Rarely done in its completeness, this approximately 200ft long scramble on the South side of the lake is exposed, tricky in places, and, if your imagination is good, just like the Alps (with ducks). Check it out if in the park. It's well worth the effort.

## **Tan yr Wyddfa Notes: Dave Helliwell**

### **A saga of humanity versus the machine.**

Earlier this year the immersion heater and night storage heaters at TyW stopped working. An investigative visit showed that the white meter was defunct. It was possible to override it and then everything worked perfectly.

I telephoned Scottish Power to arrange replacement of the meter – it was difficult making them understand that I was over 100 miles from the property – they kept asking for a meter reading!! I impressed upon them that I required the meter changing on the day as I would be driving there for that purpose.

The appointment was for the morning of Friday 5 July. Ruth and I went down on Thursday night so as to be bright and ready any time between 8.00am and 1.00pm. We spent the morning cutting the grass and doing some bits of repair work. The man from Scottish Power finally arrived, checked the meter and confirmed that it was broken: that was the limit of his remit. I was not pleased; however he was not a “jobsworth” and agreed to come back in about an hour after he'd done another call in Waunfawr – meanwhile I had to get him a job number from head office for the replacement.

I left Ruth in residence with strict instructions to use whatever means necessary to keep the man on the premises when he returned. Trying to call Scottish Power with a variable signal was very taxing - but a chat with a D.L.O. Road gang pointed me to the only good local signal – take the Nantlle road and park in the first layby on the left. Contact was made; it was still difficult, but eventually I got authorisation to change the meter.



When I returned to Tan yr Wyddfa the job was already in hand as an “emergency repair.” We were very lucky to get such an understanding engineer. By early afternoon the job was done, the weather was brilliant and for three sunny days we had the hut to ourselves – where was everyone else?

On Friday afternoon Ruth led Dream of White Horses – on her list for years- including the Gordon desperate finish\* - harder than anything else - traversing past the finishing groove with all the tat in it!!

Saturday took us to Cwm Silyn for a long day on Kirkus Direct (*photo left*) and Outside Edge route. Sunday seemed like

a day for comfy rock boots so we walked up to Glyder Fach for Hawk's Nest Buttress followed by Chasm Route and onto the summit – totally deserted as the cloud lifted – magical views followed by a walk down the Gribin. A good mountaineering day out but the “Vertical Vice” was the hardest climbing of the weekend – V. Diff.???

A brilliant weekend – those who didn't come missed a treat.

\* *“Have you got the guidebook?”*

*“Oh bloody hell I left it in the car. Don't matter, I know where it goes.”*

**Much later:**

*“Do I go up this groove here?”*

*“Good God no, that looks desperate! I think you keep traversing.”*

I rest my case. **Hon. Ed.**



### **Austrian finale: Ruth Gordon**

After we left Val di Mello on a damp Friday, with pretty much everyone gone or departing soon, it was hard to pick up much enthusiasm for the last stage of our trip. Richard Hopkinson and I were on our way to Berchtesgaden, (a little chunk of Germany that pokes its tongue into Austria, just south west of Salzburg,) to meet up with Clare and Roger de Faye for a holiday with our old friend Regina

Schofer, who moved to live there a year ago.

We had ideas of a half day climbing down in the valley near Sondrio but it was damp and cheerless, so we kept going, through three dramatic rainstorms, before deciding to call in to the Oztal valley for a stopover. What a lucky choice – a super Tourist Information Centre provided us with shelter from the fourth inundation of the day, plus directions to campsites and a guide to local klettersteigs. The nearest campsite, at Umhausen, was big and busy but very welcoming with good facilities, right next to the Stuibenfall, the biggest waterfall in Tyrol, with a splendid klettersteig up the side of it. All we needed was for the rain to stop!



Next morning was blue skies and sunshine again so off we went. After the deluge the waterfall was magnificent, soaking us in spray and surrounding us with rainbows. Splendid views of the fall, airy positions and finally a wire bridge across the water and on to a delightful gasthaus for kaffee and germknodels! Thus fortified we walked on through beautiful alpine meadows for a couple of hours before heading back down. A lovely area with lots more to explore.

On Sunday we drove up the valley to find another klettersteig to give us a morning's amusement before heading on to Berchtesgaden. Just up from Langenfeld we found a superb one: the Burgsteiner Wand, just the job, short walk in, 200m vertical ascent, gentle walk to delightful gasthaus, apfelstrudel and weissbier. Lovely walk down through the forest to the increasing sound of brass band music. When we get through the

trees it is clear that a major event is in progress: traffic at a standstill for miles. On arriving back in Lagenfeld the whole vilage is celebrating, scores of bands in wonderful costumes are parading, the music fills the air! How lucky to chance on such a joyful event.

*Richard on the Burgsteiner Wand.*



Then it was back onto the motorway and over to Berchtesgaden where we arrived to meet our friends on the Camping Muhlleiten at Konigsee. This was another very busy campsite, (hardly surprising as it was the biggest bank holiday weekend of their year), again the facilities were excellent. This is a most beautiful alpine area, with glorious, stunning views from a wide, open, light-filled valley. The downside is that, even though the mountains, by alpine standards, are quite small (around 2,000 m.) most of the activities demand a lot of vertical ascent and descent. Even our rest day walk, as Richard pointed out, involved a similar height gain and loss to a stroll up the Ben!

We had an easy warm up day with a delightful klettersteig up the Grunesteig, in walking distance from the campsite. This one had several different options: Richard and Roger did an alarming overhanging version while Clare and I enjoyed the original route and then sunned ourselves on the summit before descending to a handily placed gasthaus for cooling drinks. Next came a two and a half hour walk-in to a big klettersteig up to the summit of the Hochthron. This was a long and physical expedition, using a lot of natural rock footholds and much heaving up on the wires. The route arrived almost at the summit. We walked on up there and shared our sandwiches with a family of choughs, the babies fully grown but still covered in down and demanding to be fed by their parents. There was a hut up there too but it was cold and getting late so we opted for straight on down! Then, we had the aforementioned rest day, a walk up from Ramsau to the Blaueis Hutte and up from there to the summit of the Steinberg (2065m) Over the top of this and down a beautiful woodland path which brought us back to the



Schartenalm Hutte where they serve kaffee und kuchen to die for. Thus cheered we almost enjoyed the long plod back down. Then a short day on a little shady woodland crag, bolted, quarried limestone, very enjoyable and just near a wonderful natural swimming pool park- looks idyllic but too much to do - too little time.

Next day we joined Regina to achieve one of her objectives for her holiday, the Pidinger Klettersteig up the Hochstaufen ( 1171m). The klettersteig itself is 710m long and takes you to the top of the mountain. Unlike many French via ferratas, round here they tend to be a journey as well as a game. There are four challenging sections, linked by easier ground, which took us around three hours, and brought us, through some dramatic steep territory, to the summit.

*Regina on the final steep summit section.*

From there surprise, surprise, it was only five minutes to a delightful gasthaus where we ate cheese dumpling soup and drank ice-cold fizzy apple juice – total bliss! Alas, the walk down was long and hard, but very beautiful. A magnificent day out.

For our last day we took the Jenner chairlift and had a walk up from there up the Schneibenstein (2277m). The views were superb and wonderful circular walks can be done from there but for us it was enough – after all there was another lovely gasthaus in which to partake of weissbier and kaffee und apfel strudeln. What a civilised way to be in the mountains!

It is a most lovely area, lots of big challenges, including the traverse of the spectacular Watzmann, (at 2713m the second highest mountain in Germany), which Clare and Regina completed on the Friday after we left. Such a change of scene - in Val di Mello one might laze about till five in the afternoon and then go climbing in the cool of the evening – here you have to set your stall out for a two day expedition. Lovely places – good times.

## **SURVEY OF LAKE DISTRICT SCENIC BEAUTY**

Dear Mountaineer,

The Lake District is among Britain's most beautiful areas and is visited and enjoyed by millions of people annually. Its lovely landscapes contribute to its popularity among the members of the Mountaineering Club.

With the support of the Lake District National Park Authority, I am carrying out a survey to measure and map the landscape quality of the Lake District National Park. The results will inform and assist the Authority, councils, land owners and other bodies in their planning, management and promotion of the region.

The survey comprises a set of photos of the Lake District and involves rating them on a 1 – 10 scale of landscape attractiveness. The value of the survey depends on having as many people as possible participate.

**I invite you to participate by rating the scenic quality of the scenes.**

**I also respectfully ask you to forward it to your members and place details on your next newsletter.**

No qualifications or experience are required and the responses will be anonymous. It is open to anyone 18 years or older.

To participate simply click of the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RYH2HPQ>

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If it is inconvenient to do it now, I suggest you put it aside to return to, or send it to your home email.

You can indicate at the end of the survey if you would like to see the results.

**Please forward this to anyone you think might be interested.**

If you have any questions about the project you can contact me by email:

[lothian.andrew@gmail.com](mailto:lothian.andrew@gmail.com)

Thank you for your assistance in this project.

Dr Andrew Lothian

Scenic Solutions

[www.scenicsolutions.com.au](http://www.scenicsolutions.com.au)

## **Information on member activities.**

Welcome to new prospective member, Nicola Bishop. We look forward to meeting you on club meets and progressing to full membership.

Applications for full membership have been received from Rhiannon Hollick-Cooper, Tim Sellears and Jan Wilson. Would anyone who has an objection to any of these applications being approved please get in touch with a member of the committee.

## **New Species spotted on Pembrokeshire Coast.**

There have been confirmed sightings of a Caravaning Radcliffe in Pembrokeshire. Similar in stature and colouring to the Common CJR, it is far more sedate. Never exceeds 50mph when driving and more likely to say "Shall we have another cup of coffee, Gill?" than "We should have done 5 routes by now".

**Submitted by our Local Twitcher. 27.08.13**

## **Hut Bookings for September.**

Details of September bookings not known at time of going to press due to holidays. Contact Derek Pike if you want to use either hut.

### **TAN-YR-WYDDFA**

6 Sept      SPINZ 16 beds.

### **HEATHY LEA**

6 September Derwent M.C. Cottage and barn.

“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

All queries, payments and bookings should be addressed to Derek Pike, the Hut Bookings Secretary:

Derek Pike, 19 St. Johns Drive, Chaddesden, Derby. DE216SD

Tel. 01332 670459 Email: [derepike1234@btinternet.com](mailto:derepike1234@btinternet.com)

## The Oreads in Summer



*Mike Hayes on Gargoyle Flake, Bamford Edge.*

## Hobday's humour:

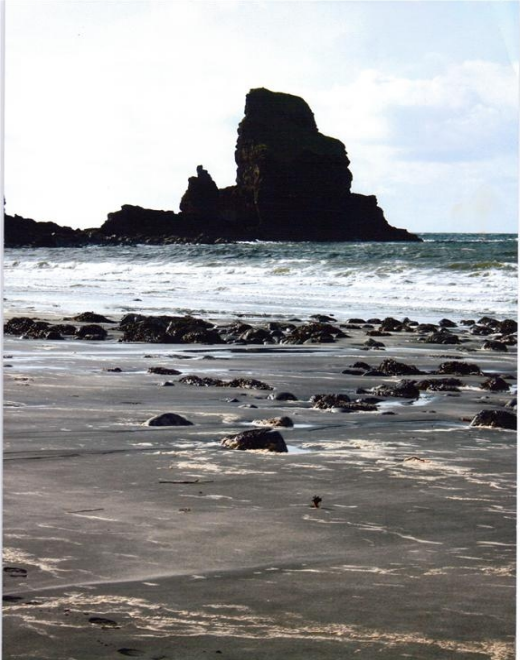


*The Val di Mello remains a stronghold of trad ethics.*

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Nobody guessed the location of last month's picture which was the limestone crag and cave on Sugarloaf, just behind Wetton Mill Tearooms. This can be seen from the Manifold Trail.

Here is this month's challenge.



**Rusty suggests that, if you are not intimately familiar with this landmark, for a little entertainment, you should submit your "best guess" map reference (six digits plus the two letters, SK if it were in Derbyshire). He will then do a little pythagarus on any replies and calculate who is closest on a straight line basis!**

Answers to [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com) or by telephone or post, as suits you best.

## Forthcoming Meets: Chris Radcliffe

<b>September.</b>				
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> .		Yahoo Group.		
14 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> .	Lundy.		Derek Pike.	
28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> .		Yahoo Group.		
<b>October.</b>				
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> .		Yahoo Group.		
12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> .	Gogarth.		Dave Mawer.	
26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> .	T.Y.W.	Curry Meet.	Tony Howard.	
<b>November.</b>				
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> .	Heathy Lea.	Bonfire Meet.	Mike Hayes.	
3 <sup>rd</sup>		Dovedale Dash	Rob Tresidder?	
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> .		Yahoo Group		
16 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Dinner	Bluebell Inn	Leader Required.	
17 <sup>th</sup> .	Post Prandial Walk		Leader Required.	
23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> .		Yahoo Group.		
<b>December.</b>				
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov-1 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	Patterdale.	G. Starkey.	Tony Howard.	

7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> .	Bullstones.		Kev Fidler	
11 <sup>th</sup> .	Black Rocks.		Rob. Tresidder?	
14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> .		Yahoo Group.		
21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> .		“		
25 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup> . Jan	Christmas	T.Y.W.		

### Back Page Beefcake!



*Whiter than white – the delectable Derek pouts for the camera below Gillercombe Buttress.*

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Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB

**Tel.** 01629 56636 07999 857 922. Email – [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com)